THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The instructions of 8.2.2002 relate to posts filled by promotion, whereas the posts of Joint Secretary in Government of India are filled by deputation under provisions of the Central Staffing Scheme.

(c) and (d) For empanelment of Joint Secretaries, the suitability of officers is finalized by the Civil Services Board for submission to the Appointments Committe of the Cabinet. The Civil Services Board is assisted by a Committee of Secretaries who adjudge the suitability of an officer based on the criteria of merit and competence after evaluating the officer's Confidential Report Dossier.

Fixing the accountability of the employees for higher prices in Kendriya Bhandar

1734. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Chairman, Kendriya Bhandar has asked Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) to fix the responsibility and acountability of the employees where the prices have been found higher in Kendriya Bhandar than the open market etc.;

(b) if so, whether the responsibility and accountability of the employees has been fixed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is under process.

Regular CVO for Kendriya Bhandar

1735 SHRI R.K ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Bhandar has no regular CVO for over a year;

(b) if so, in what manner it is being ensured that there are no irregularities, malpractices and corruption taking place in the sale and purchase of items; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to stop the sale of stationery and other items to Government Department till a regular CVO is positioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) There is no regular CVO in Kendriya Bhandar since 24.9.2003. The charge of CVO has been assigned to a senior officer in addition to his duties.

(b) Kendriya Bhandar has adopted a revised Purchase Policy in 2003 laying down the procedure for procurement of grocery, consumer, stationery and other items with the objective of providing quality goods at reasonable and competitive prices.

(c) No, Sir.

CVC's recommendation to Initiate disciplinary action

1736. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the number of officers of Central and State Governments against whom the CVC have recommended departmental and disciplinary action to be initiated; and

(b) the number of cases against which Government have turned down the recommendations of the CVC alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Central Vigilance Commission only tender advise in respect of officers of Central Government. The Commission had recommended disciplinary and departmental action to be initiated against 2080, 2247 and 2441 Central Government officers during the last three years *i.e.* 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively in its first stage advice.

(b) The decision related to accepting or rejecting the advise of Central Vigilance Commission vests with various Ministries/departments/ disciplinary authorities of Government of India. The figures are not Centrally maintained.